



BIT OF BAXTER STREET

ONLY a few traces remain of the picturesque old frame buildings which once covered a considerable part of Manhattan. A rigid municipal ordinance has for years prohibited the erection of any wooden building on Manhattan Island. Half a century or more ago the general neighborhood of the famous Five Points, on the lower East Side, was crowded with wooden structures. Doubtless the houses were ugly enough, but with the passing of years the sharp angles became softened and gained a certain dignity of age. Many of the groups of houses and shanties even came to have a picturesque value.

A relic of this period may still be seen on Baxter street, the last of its kind in the crowded downtown section of the city. This group of buildings has another claim to fame. The short street lined with wooden structures came to be known the country over as the home of the second hand clothing trade, and the business methods practised here made it famous. A Baxter street clothing merchant is even to-day the synonym for energy in business. Before these little shops stood the lines of "pullers in," who induced the passerby, often by very direct methods, to enter and examine their stock.

